

What is claimed is:

1. A method for culturing, propagating and replicating, *in vitro*, viruses belonging to the 5 *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, according to which there is at least one LVP fraction obtained from serum or from plasma of a patient infected with at least one virus belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, and said fraction is brought 10 into contact with permissible cells for a predetermined period of time in a suitable culture medium containing an activating agent chosen from unsaturated fatty acid, or a derivative of an unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a 15 mixture thereof.

2. A method for culturing, propagating and replicating, *in vitro*, viruses belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, according to which there is at least one LVP fraction, associative 20 with human immunoglobulins, obtained from serum or from plasma of a patient infected with a least one virus belonging to the *Togaviridae* or *Flaviviridae* families, and said fraction is brought into contact with permissible cells for a predetermined period of time in 25 a suitable culture medium containing an activating agent chosen from an unsaturated fatty acid, or a derivative of an unsaturated fatty acid, said fatty acid comprising from 16 to 20 carbon atoms or a mixture thereof.

30 3. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the receptor for lipoproteins is the LSR and /or the surface receptor from LDLs.

35 4. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the unsaturated fatty acid is chosen from oleic acid, palmitoleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid,

arachidonic acid, transhexadecenoic acid and elaidic acid, or derivatives thereof.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, in which the fatty acid is oleic acid, which is added to said  
5 culture medium at a concentration of between 0.1 and 1 mM, preferably 0.5 mM.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the permissive cells are primary human or animal hepatocyte cells, cells chosen from the human or animal  
10 hepatocarcinoma cell line group, dendritic cells, macrophage cells, Kupffer cells and combinations thereof which may or may not be associated with lymphocytes.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, in which the  
15 permissives cells are human hepatocarcinoma cells of the PLC/PRF/5 cell line.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the culture medium comprises, besides the ingredients required for culturing and the fatty acid or the  
20 derivative of fatty acid, an apoptosis-modulating agent.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, in which the apoptosis-modulating agent is chosen from interferons, anti-interferons, in particular anti-alpha and beta  
25 interferons; anti-caspases 3, in particular peptide analogs, such as zVADfmk and antibodies directed against said anti-caspases 3.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the medium is DMEM medium, or a medium derived from  
30 DMEM medium, RPMI medium or a derivative of RPMI medium.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, in which the medium is DMEM medium supplemented with 0 to 10 mM of sodium pyruvate, 0 to 10% of nonessential amino  
35 acids, 1 to 10 mM of glutamine, 100 to 200 U/ml of penicillin, 100 to 200 mg/ml of streptomycin and 1 to 20% of calf serum.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, in which the medium is advantageously supplemented with 0.1 to 0.5% of BSA or with 0.1 to 0.5% of HSA coupled to a fatty acid.

5 13. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which, after bringing the permissive cells and said LVP fraction into contact, said permissive cells thus infected under conditions as defined according to claim 1 are subcultured several times and the presence 10 of said virus is demonstrated in the said permissive cells by RT-PCR and/or by an immunological technique, such as by indirect immunofluorescence in particular using an antibody specific for said virus and/or by flow cytometry.

15 14. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the virus belongs to the Flaviviridae family and to the Hepacivirus genus.

20 15. The method as claimed in claim 14, in which the virus is the hepatitis C virus or the hepatitis G virus.

25 16. A method for preparing a composition for detecting, in a sample, antibodies directed against at least one virus belonging to the Togaviridae or Flaviviridae families, which comprises at least one partial or total purification of the viral particles of said virus or of the polypeptides obtained in using a culturing method as claimed in claim 1.

30 17. The method as claimed in claim 16, in which said viral particles or said polypeptides are attached to a solid support.

35 18. A method for obtaining antibodies or antibody fragments directed against at least one virus belonging to the Togaviridae or Flaviviridae families, according to which an animal is immunized with viral particles or polypeptides obtained using a culturing method as claimed in claim 1.

19. A diagnostic composition comprising at least the viral particles according to the method defined in claim 16.

20. A diagnostic kit also comprising a 5 composition as defined in claim 19.

21. An immunization composition comprising at least the viral particles of the polypeptides obtained according to the method defined in claim 16, associated with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and/or 10 excipient and/or adjuvant.

22. A therapeutic composition capable of qualitatively and/or quantitatively influencing the propagation and replication, *in vivo*, of viruses belonging to the *Togaviridae* and *Flaviviridae* families, 15 which comprises, *inter alia*, a ligand capable of modulating, of repressing or of inhibiting the endocytosis pathway relayed by at least receptors for lipoproteins, the ligand being chosen from an antagonistic antibody directed against said receptor 20 and a protein chosen from soluble recombinant proteins and soluble synthetic polypeptides, which bind said receptor, or in that it comprises, *inter alia*, at least one molecule which modulates, represses or inhibits the expression of the gene encoding said receptor or the 25 activity of the promoter of the gene which encodes said receptor.

23. A method for screening and/or selecting at least one antiviral molecule, according to which infected permissive cells are obtained in accordance 30 with claim 1 and said antiviral molecule is brought into contact with said infected permissive cells.